

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This amendment is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated October 21, 2004.

In the Office Action the Examiner allowed claims 1-30 and 40-42. In addition the Examiner rejected claims 31-38 under 35 U.S.C. §101 and under 35 U.S.C. §103 in view of various prior art references cited in the Office action.

Claims 31-38 have been canceled in this amendment without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in the claims, solely to expedite issuance of a patent. Applicants do not acquiesce in these rejections. Claim 39 was previously canceled. Accordingly claims 1-30 and 40-42 are now pending.

Since only allowed claims remain pending, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. A prompt allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

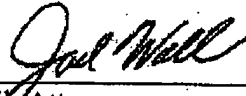
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that **only allowed claims are now pending placing the application in condition for allowance**. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

Applicants reserve their rights to pursue patent coverage otherwise afforded by canceled claims 31-39 in a continuation application or the like.

If there are any outstanding issues which need to be resolved to place the application in condition for allowance the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by phone to discuss and hopefully resolve said issues. To the extent necessary, a petition for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made, the fee for which should be charged to Patent Office deposit account number 07-2347.

Respectfully submitted,

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